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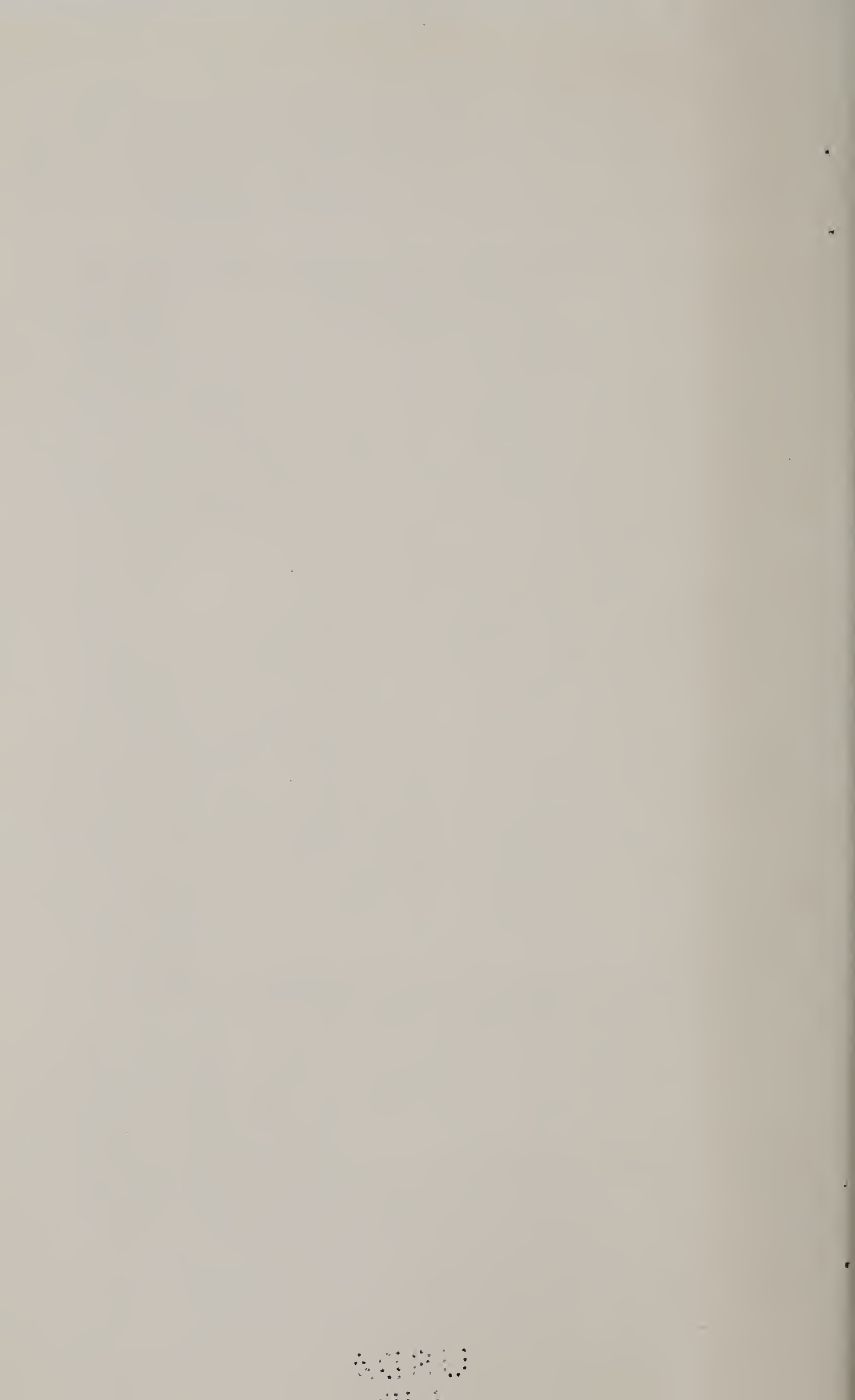
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CARIBOU NATIONAL FOREST



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

NOV 16 1948



THE CARIBOU NATIONAL
FOREST bids all visitors welcome.
Its renewable resources of timber,
forage, wildlife, water, and recrea-
tion are for the use and enjoyment
of all people.

CARIBOU NATIONAL FOREST

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

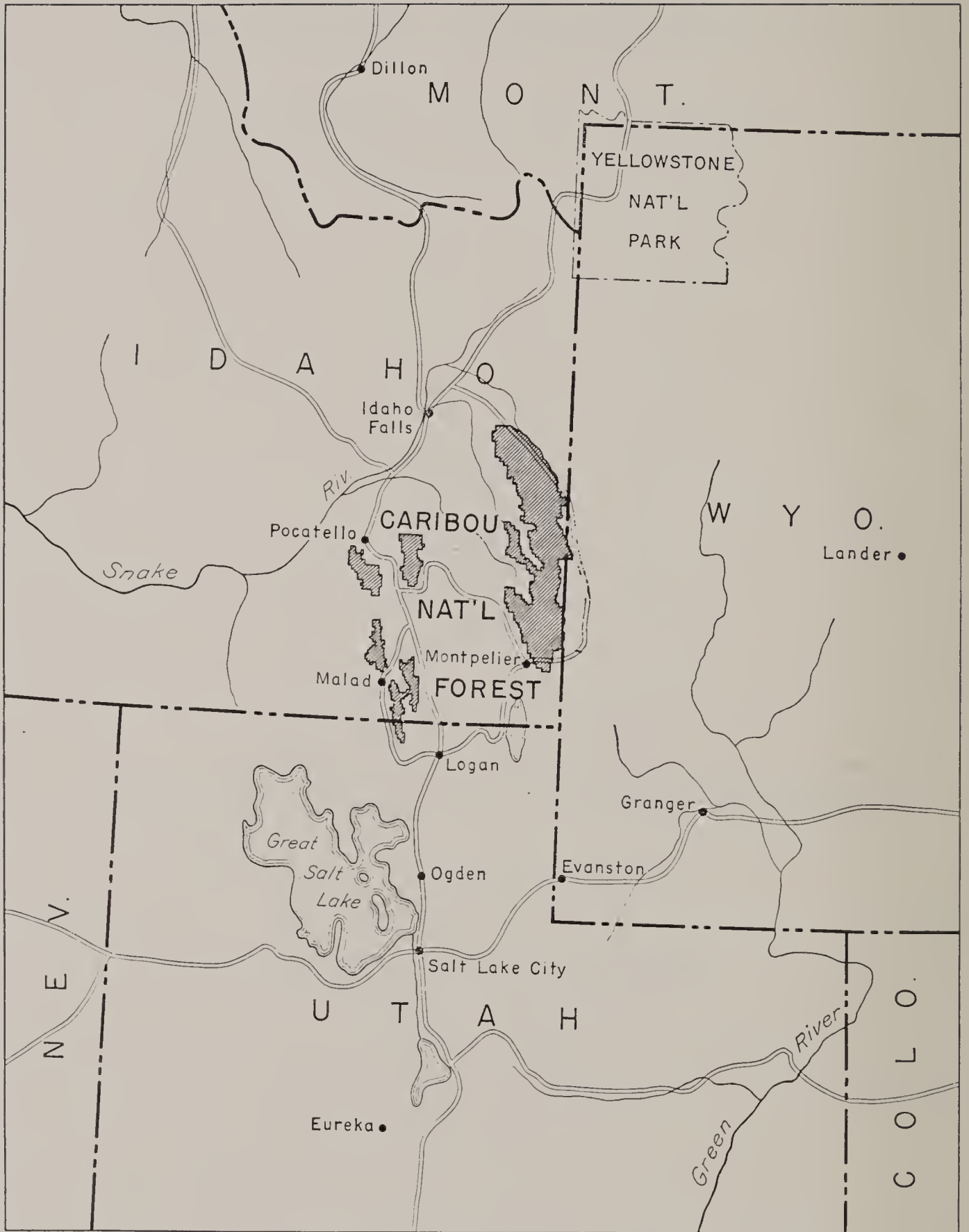
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Cover photo—Where Indians and trappers, and settlers with covered wagons slowly made their way, you can now traverse the forest on good motor roads.



THE CARIBOU NATIONAL FOREST

ITS LOCATION, NAME, AND PURPOSE

Spreading across southeastern Idaho, edging into western Wyoming, and protruding into northern Utah, astride the summit separating the waters of the Pacific and the Great Salt Lake, lies the Caribou National Forest.

There are 1,010,000 acres of wild land within the boundaries of the five separate units which make up the present forest. The largest unit is the original forest, established January 15, 1907, by proclamation of President Theodore Roosevelt. The Portneuf, Pocatello, Elkhorn, and Oxford units, originally the Pocatello National Forest, and later, isolated parts of the Cache National Forest, were added to the Caribou Forest in 1939 and 1942.

The Caribou takes its name from one of the outstanding pioneer prospectors of the West—Jesse Fairchild, nicknamed "Caribou Jack" because of his tales of the Canadian caribou country where he had lived. The basin where he discovered and mined gold was given his name, and later the national forest adopted it.

This area, like other national forests, is owned by the people of the United States and is maintained for their use and enjoyment. Its renewable resources of timber, forage, wildlife, water, and recreation are managed so as to be perpetually productive and available to the people. All these resources are dependent upon preservation and maintenance of the forest cover, with which the Caribou is richly endowed.

LAND OF PIONEERS, TRAPPERS, AND PROSPECTORS

History of this region is replete with tales of early adventurers who braved unknown dangers to trap fur, seek gold, and explore in the vast western wilderness. You can follow their trails, visit their graves, and see the places where they made history.

Henry's Fort was built in 1810 by Andrew Henry of the Missouri Fur Co. The Caribou area was visited then or earlier by trappers working with him. The famous explorer Jim Bridger, founder and owner of Fort Bridger, Wyo., visited the south end of the forest in 1826. In 1830 a rendezvous of trappers and Indians was held on Blackfoot River for the purpose of trading the annual catch of fur, following the system started by Gen. W. H. Ashby of the Rocky Mountain Fur Co. Capt. B. L. E. Bonneville visited the area in 1833, spending the winter on the Portneuf River.

Fort Hall was built by Nathaniel Wyeth in 1834 as a trading post and headquarters for his 70-man party, which included missionaries to the Indians, and scientists conducting a survey of flora and fauna along Snake River. Rev. Jason Lee here preached the first sermon in Idaho, and the fort was the site of the first United States flag flying in Idaho territory. Fort Hall was one of the chief trading posts in the West and the most important one on the Oregon Trail. This trail, mapped by John C. Fremont for the United States Government in 1843, was the highway of the West over which thousands of immigrants traveled to the Columbia River Country. It is reported that in 1850 a thousand people were traveling this road every day.

The Fort Kearney-South Pass-Honey Lake wagon road, commonly known as the Lander Trail, was constructed in 1859 by Col. Frederick W. Lander as a cut-off on the Oregon Trail. It was the first road built with Government funds in the Rocky Mountain region. This route was used by the pioneers for trailing livestock because it passed through a great forage-producing area. Parts of the original route continue to be used as a stock driveway, making it one of the oldest stock trails in the West.

The discovery of gold in Caribou Basin by "Caribou Jack" Fairchild, F. McCoy, and F. S. Babcock in September 1870, brought in hundreds of fortune seekers. The town of Keenan was settled by 900 people, 400 of whom were Chinese. Nearby Caribou City soon had a population of 1,500. These ghost towns today bear mute evidence of former prosperous days. Placer mining of the rich gold deposits was started by the discoverers. Some of these mines are still operating on a limited scale and have done so with but few interruptions for more than 70 years, during which 30 to 50 million dollars are reported to have been taken.

The old salt works on Stump Creek, near the Lander Trail, was the chief source of salt for early settlers in what is now Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. The crystal-clear salt springs are 30-percent salt. In 1866, J. H. Stump began producing salt by evaporating the water in large vats. As many as 300 teams, each team consisting of 9 yoke of oxen pulling 3 wagons, were engaged in transporting the 1 million pounds of salt produced each year for the 13 years the plant operated.

TOPOGRAPHY

The general topography can best be described as a high plateau crinkled into a series of beautiful valleys separated by comparatively narrow mountain ranges. The valley floors are 4,400 to 7,500 feet above sea level and the mountain tops rise to 10,000 feet.

The Caribou Range, about 100 miles in length and with a maximum width of 25 miles, extends north and south along the Idaho-Wyoming boundary line. It is studded with several high peaks along its crest. The Elk Mountains are near the northern end, with majestic Caribou Mountain 20 miles southward, and Meades Peak towering 10,000 feet near the southern end of the range. The Caribou Range is bordered by scenic valleys—to the north and northeast, Antelope, Conant, Swan, and Grand Valleys of the South Fork of the Snake River; beautiful Star Valley, noted for its Swiss cheese production, and Geneva Valley along the east, both traversed by U. S. Highway 89. Bear River Valley on the south merges into the Bear Lake Valley on the west, and at its southern



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Beautiful Swan Valley.

end, beyond the national forest boundaries, nestles the crystal-clear Bear Lake with its 100 square miles of water surface. Soda Springs Valley, famous for its natural carbonated soda springs, valleys of the Blackfoot River, and the green meadows of the Grays Lake valleys extend west-northwestward.

The Portneuf Range lies in the U of the Portneuf River Valley, which is traversed by U. S. Highway 30 North. The Bannock Range extends from Pocatello, Idaho, on the north to Plymouth, Utah, on the south. It is bordered by the Portneuf, Marsh, and Cache Valleys on the east and by the Malad, Arbon, and Bannock Valleys on the west. Three peaks—Scout, Elkhorn, and Oxford—rise high out of the crest of the range to make this mountain chain appear rugged from the valleys below.

WEALTH IN THE ROCKS

Although gold lured many people to this region, other wealth in the rocks has been there for ages. Millions of years ago this section of the country was the floor of a sea. Marine organisms inhabited this sea in vast numbers and when they died their bodies were deposited on the sea bed in thick layers. There, as time passed, they were covered with deep layers of sand, mud, and limy debris.

More ages passed; the sea drained, and the deposited material was turned by time and pressure to strata of sandstone, limestone, and shale. The layers formed by the bodies of marine organisms were changed into rich phosphate rock now known as the Phosphoria formation. The strata containing phosphate are commonly 100 to 150 feet thick, although the main beds of the richest rock are usually 5 feet or more thick and contain 70 percent of tricalcium phosphate.

The world's known supply of phosphate rock is 16.5 billion tons; 6.5 billion tons are in the United States, with 5.5 billion tons in the southeastern Idaho deposits. Lying mostly in the Caribou Forest, they are the world's largest and richest known supply. Recently developed methods for utilizing low-grade phosphoric shales increase the potential yield to an estimated 20 billion tons in this area.

Phosphate rock has a variety of uses, the main one being fertilizer for agricultural land. It is of great importance in the manufacture of military materials. The strategic mineral, vanadium, is an important byproduct. To insure sound development of the deposits and prevent exploitation and waste, the phosphate beds are held as a reserve by the Government. At present two mines are in operation, with an annual production of 300,000 tons, and production is increasing.

ADMINISTRATION

The national forests were established and are operated to bring the greatest good to the greatest number in the long run. This means that all of the native resources are so managed that they are harvested no faster than they are renewed, so that a perpetual yield of timber, forage, wildlife, water, and recreational use can be realized. This is our objective, and can be reached only by cooperation of all of the users of the forest. The pages following show what the Caribou National Forest offers to its users.

The forest supervisor, with headquarters at Pocatello, is in charge of the forest. It is divided into six districts, with a ranger in charge of each. Rangers are located at Freedom, Wyo., Mont-



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Snake River Ranger Station near Swan Valley.

pelier, Soda Springs, Pocatello, Malad, and Idaho Falls, Idaho. For information or assistance at any time contact one of these officers. They will be glad to help you.

WATER FOR MAN'S USE

From the cold, clear springs along forested slopes of the Peale, Aspen, and Snowdrift Mountains of the Caribou Range, the Blackfoot and Salt Rivers and smaller streams pour their waters down into the South Fork of the Snake River. Farther to the south and west the Portneuf Range and northern slopes of the Bannock Range nurture the placid Portneuf River, which creeps gently down through the old Lake Bonneville gateway into the backwaters of the American Falls Reservoir on the Snake River.

The Bear River drains the southern parts of the Caribou and Bannock mountain ranges and sends its cool, fresh waters southward to mix with the brine of Great Salt Lake.

When forests are properly managed the soil is porous and covered with litter and can take in water from the heaviest rains or the most rapid snow melt. Such soils can absorb and hold back as much as half their volume of water, slowly releasing it to furnish clear, steady stream flow.

If the forest is burned over, too heavily grazed, overcut or improperly logged, the soil loses its litter cover and the protection of the trees and undergrowth. Its ability to absorb water is greatly

reduced and washing and gullying occur. The water runs over the surface instead of sinking in, causes streams to rise quickly and flood, and to become muddy. Such conditions can result in poorer water supplies, rapid silt filling of reservoirs, and sometimes serious flood and debris damage. It is part of the job of the rangers, with the cooperation of the people using the National Forest, to prevent damage to the waters, so all can continue to enjoy the benefits.

The water issuing from the Caribou National Forest is one of the most important resources benefiting the people on the farms and in the cities and villages of southeastern Idaho. Eighty percent of the



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Clear water from the forest insures bountiful crops and permanent communities.

Crystal Springs supplies domestic water to McCammon, Idaho.



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Caribou's watershed areas contribute to and protect the water. Important water uses include municipal and domestic water supplies, irrigation, hydroelectric power, fishing, trapping, and stock-water development.

Pure spring water sufficient to supply the domestic water for about 35,000 people living in Montpelier, McCammon, Pocatello, Malad, and several small communities comes directly from the Caribou Forest. They use over 3,000,000 gallons of water a day.

An irrigated area of over 483,000 acres supporting a farm and community population of over 63,000 in 7 counties is almost entirely dependent on the national forest for its water needs.

One hydroelectric-power site is now being used and 3 additional sites are capable of being used for power. There are 9 small indus-

trial plants within the forest and 14 adjacent to it, utilizing the stream flow.

Recreational waters include 35 streams totaling 185 miles suitable for fishing, 85 streams totaling 500 miles stocked with beaver, 3 hot springs, and 10 soda springs.

TIMBER IS A CONTINUOUS CROP

Half a million acres, about half the land area of the Caribou, is forested with evergreen and deciduous trees. Under protection against fire and overgrazing, this area is increasing through natural seeding on brush lands. Aspen, with a stand estimated at 1.7 million cords, is most common, occupying more than half of the forested area. Evergreen forests of majestic splendor add to the visitors' enjoyment, and contribute wealth to the dependent communities. Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine are the important timber-producing species, with alpine fir, Engelmann spruce, Colorado blue spruce, Idaho and Utah juniper, and mountain mahogany in lesser volume. The total volume of all trees over 4 inches in diameter is estimated at 1.4 billion board feet.

Trees to be cut are designated by a forest officer by blazing on the stump and bole and stamping "US". These are cut by the purchaser, who is required to avoid waste by cutting the stumps low and utilizing all sound timber.



F-415114

Ponderosa pine trees invade a sagebrush area.



Aspen with gleaming boles adds a maiden-like beauty to the forest.

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In addition to saw timber, the forest produces a large amount of poles, derrick timber, and posts. These are mostly used for improvement of nearby farm and ranch property and sold for this purpose at about cost of handling the sale.

The price to be paid for timber on the stump is based on the current market price. A thorough appraisal considers the costs of cutting, manufacturing, transporting, and selling the timber, and



F-415118

When trees reach maturity they are cut. Thrifty young trees are left for a future cut.

allows the operator a fair profit. If very large quantities of timber are ready for market the timber is sold by competitive bidding.

Twenty-five percent of the money received from the timber sales, forage use, and other resources is returned to the county to be used for public schools and roads. The 10 counties within which the Caribou National Forest is located receive over \$12,000 annually from these sources. An additional 10 percent of the national forest receipts is spent within the forest for improvement of roads and trails.

LIVESTOCK GROW AND FATTEN

The mountain valleys and verdant slopes of the Caribou have long been famous for their abundant production of top-quality forage. Around the turn of the century, before the national forest

was established, more than half a million sheep were pastured here in summer. In the early days of unregulated grazing, the first man had first choice of range for his flocks, so the race to the summer range began as soon as the plants started to grow in the spring. Often 30 to 40 bands of sheep could be seen jockeying for position near the foothills of Snake River Valley. Fights, and sometimes gunplay resulted from chance encounters or deliberate planning.

The farms and ranches of the great Snake River Valley produce fall and winter feed for more than 150,000 sheep and 20,000 cattle.



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A wealth of grasses and timber for farms and communities are important Caribou National Forest resources. Local sheep and cattle herds feed through the summer on these high mountain pasture lands.

Six hundred and fifty ranchers and farmers own these grazing animals that, with their lambs and calves, annually harvest the Caribou's summer forage crop. The period of pasturing is limited to the season during which forage may be utilized without injury to the soil and plant cover. Beginning in the low country, the herds gradually move into higher ranges as the season advances. The numbers of stock are limited to the carrying capacity of the ranges so that continuous grazing from year to year is possible without damage to forage plants.

Management plans are prepared for each sheep and cattle allotment by the forest ranger, who supervises grazing use so as to maintain and improve the forage plants and soil. The grazing permittees are organized into stockmen's associations to cooperate with the forest officers and act in their own interest in the management of the ranges. There are 15 cattlemen associations and 1 sheepgrowers association which include all permittees on the forest.

Range improvements such as drift fences and water development are constructed and maintained to get the best use of the range with the least possible damage. On many parts of the range, water is scarce. Small springs or seeps are developed and piped into troughs or storage tanks. This eliminates trailing long distances to water and makes for better utilization of the forage.

WILDLIFE ABOUNDS

Many species of wildlife make their homes on the Caribou. Twenty years ago it was estimated that not more than 130 mule deer inhabited the forest but today, under good game management, the herd has grown to about 9,000. Elk have been built up to a population estimated at 1,200, most of which are on the Pocatello district. Moose are also steadily increasing. There are about 350 black and brown bear. Good hunting is now available and prevents an overpopulation of game.

While deer hunting is open to anyone who purchases a State license and tag, elk hunting is restricted to the lucky applicants in the annual drawing. The number of elk to be removed annually is determined by the estimated increase, for, like any other crop, no more than the natural increase is harvested each year. When the ground is covered with snow and the elk are concentrated on their winter range, the herd is counted by airplane. The dark color of the animals contrasts sharply with the snow and makes possible a very accurate count.

The many excellent fishing streams are kept stocked with trout hatched in State and Federal hatcheries, and provide good fishing

for young and old alike. South Fork of Snake River, Blackfoot, Salt, and Portneuf Rivers; Crow, McCoy, Stump, Tincup, Fall, Toponce, Montpelier, and Bear Creeks are among the favorite fishing streams on the forest.

With more than 200,000 acres of aspen and hundreds of miles of streams, the Caribou is a paradise for more than 6,000 beaver. Under a beaver-management plan made by State conservation and forest officers, an attempt is made to maintain the beavers according to the carrying capacity of the stream so that the maximum



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The youngsters and oldsters are given a "break" in fishing on Mink Creek. "This stream closed to fishing except to youth under 16 or adults over 70."

number can be produced within the available food supply. Beaver are removed from streams with excessive populations and planted in waters where more are needed. The marketing of beaver pelts from this area adds an important source of revenue to Idaho.

Mink, muskrat, marten, ermine, badger, Canada lynx, bobcat, and fox are native on the Caribou and are sought by trappers, whose catch adds to the local income. The bulk of furs trapped, here and in adjacent forests are not marketed locally, but the volume of the fur trade is shown by the report of one Idaho Falls dealer who paid more than \$200,000 for furs in 1 year.

PLAYGROUNDS IN PRIMITIVE SETTINGS

For lovers of the out of doors, the Caribou provides many kinds of wholesome recreation. One may relax in the shade of the forest and breathe deeply the stimulating, fragrant mountain air, or hike through wooded glens up well-built trails to the tops of lofty peaks. During open season deer and elk may be stalked or trout caught in dashing mountain streams and serene beaver pools.

All of the Caribou Forest is attractive, but some spots possess striking beauty worthy of special mention. Among these are:

Snake River

Along the road bordering Snake River from the river bridge at the lower end of Swan Valley to the mouth of Salt River are many interesting scenes. The road winding through groves of stately trees and along the bank of the river leads past the mouths of many



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To walk over the 400-foot suspension bridge across Snake River thrills the novice.



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beautiful canyons. The sight of the turbulent river as it is turned by precipitous Calamity Point is unforgettable. Particularly striking and in view from the road is the waterfall at the mouth of Fall Creek. At many of the turns of road and river, hundreds of wild ducks rise into flight as you pass. The river provides excellent duck hunting during open season and good fishing yearlong. The mineral spring at Sulphur Bar Creek has formed a pool in a natural rock basin made of its deposits and has long been a favorite bathing resort for residents and visitors alike.

At Bear Creek a few homesteads are farmed by hardy descendants of pioneers, who welcome the visitor, and whose hospitality is legendary. They have built a cable-suspended foot bridge across the Snake River for convenience in getting mail and supplies, and to permit their children to attend school.

Camp Grounds

Seventeen forest camp grounds are equipped with piped water, stoves, tables, and sanitary facilities. At only five of these is there any time limit (3 days) for trailers. Food and supplies may be purchased in towns near the forest. Four of these camp grounds capable of accommodating large group outings are located as follows:

Scout Mountain Camp.—In Mink Creek Canyon 15 miles from Pocatello. Amphitheater and picnic area for 800 people.

Summit View Camp.—At the head of left fork of Georgetown Canyon, 7 miles from Georgetown. Amphitheater developed to accommodate 600 people.

Montpelier Camp.—In Montpelier Canyon 4 miles from Montpelier. For group outings up to 200.

Falls Camp.—On the South Fork of Snake River 2 miles above Swan Valley bridge. Playgrounds, baseball diamond. Will accommodate up to 600 people.



F-415093

Refreshed by Nature's magic, the visitor casts cares aside.

Mink Creek Canyon

For winter sports or for soothingly cool picnicking and camping during the summer, the Mink Creek Canyon area is a playground to the residents of nearby Pocatello, and a game area. Its lower slopes are a winter haven for deer and elk, which feed there when forced down from their higher range by deep snow. Its cold, crystal-clear springs are piped to Pocatello for domestic uses.

Fall Creek and Hell Creek Ridge

The lower Fall Creek area gives rise to mineral springs that have been depositing rocky material for untold centuries. This material, now nearly 100 feet thick at the mouth of the creek, forms the bluff over which the stream falls into the Snake River. The water is warm enough to support abundant aquatic flora, myriads of freshwater shrimp, and other fauna. Because of the large supply of food and favorable water temperature, a rainbow trout will develop from a 2-inch fingerling to a 12-inch fish in 10 months. Excellent fishing results.

The drive from Fall Creek to Grays Lake by way of Hell Creek Ridge, where the steep, winding road follows the skyline ridge for more than 10 miles, affords a panorama that is unsurpassed. The majestic Teton Mountains loom on the eastern horizon, and on the west the buttes of the Snake River plains and the Lost River Mountains nearly 150 miles distant are visible. Deer are often seen on this drive, and along its course many mother grouse rear their broods, protected from the spying eyes of enemies by the lush native vegetation.

Caribou Basin

Beneath the shadows of lofty Caribou Mountain, placer mining is still to be seen. Here the decaying ruins of the ghost towns of Keenan and Caribou City recall the rowdy boom days when more than 1,500 people labored and fought for the yellow metal unearthed from the surrounding area.

Winter Sports Areas

Skiing and other winter sports have become so popular that two areas have been designated especially for winter playgrounds. The Alpette area, located 12 miles south of Pocatello on the Mink Creek Road, is equipped with a shelter large enough to house 100 people, a tow, and 2 jumps (a 10-meter and a 40-meter). A variety of practice slopes are available on the area—it has several miles of runs, with 1 run 2 miles in length, and excellent slalom courses.



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Ski shelter and ski activities—Alpette area.

Local inquiry concerning snow conditions should be made before going on a ski trip.

The Home Canyon area near Montpelier provides good skiing on varied slopes. It has a ski shelter and a 1,600-foot tow.

SUGGESTED AUTOMOBILE TRIPS

Scenic drives through aspen or evergreen forests, lush meadows, and masses of wild flowers are offered by the 350 miles of forest roads. Panoramas of unequalled grandeur can be viewed from the mountain summits. Deer are frequently encountered, beaver can often be seen building and repairing their dams, and other forms of wildlife can be observed and enjoyed.

Many of the roads here are not built to highway standards, but they are adequate and safe if ordinary caution is exercised by the motorist. Most of them were built primarily for forest protection and administration, and they are more winding, narrower, and steeper than those ordinarily encountered by many drivers.

Most of the forest is accessible to travel by auto, and for most delightful vistas the following trips are recommended:

(1) From Pocatello up East Fork of Mink Creek to the Boy Scout camp and Scout Mountain camp ground and picnic area. There midst stately trees and striking mountain scenery one can get good views of the surrounding countryside.

(2) From Montpelier up Montpelier Canyon, across Preuss and Beaver Creeks, near Meade Peak, highest on the Caribou, down Crow Creek to Star Valley.

(3) From Auburn, Wyo., up Smoky Canyon, over a beautiful divide and down Timber Creek to Stewart Flat, down Diamond Creek to the Blackfoot River, up Slug Creek to enchanting Summit View Forest Camp, down Georgetown Canyon to Georgetown on US 30.

(4) From Swan Valley bridge on State Highway 29, drive up Snake River road to Salt River and US 89 near Alpine.



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Forest roads beckon the visitor to fertile valleys and verdant hills.

(5) Up Fall Creek and over Hell Creek Ridge to Brockman, to Caribou Basin and down McCoy Creek to US 89 at Alpine.

(6) From Freedom over Idaho 34 to Wayan, Henry, and Blackfoot Reservoir to Soda Springs.

FIRE—CHIEF FOREST FOE

The life of the forest is constantly threatened by fire. In a matter of minutes it can transform the most stately trees to ashes, the most lively deer to charred carcasses, and the most productive land to barren waste. One carelessly tossed cigarette or match may cause the destruction of millions of trees and expose the soil to ruinous erosion.

Prompt detection and fast action are vital for successful fire control, as a few minutes' work when a fire is small can accomplish more than hours of work later. All of the forest personnel are ready to fight the red destroyer when the call comes.

The percentage of man-caused fires is much larger than it should be, and the cooperation of every visitor to the forest is earnestly asked in preventing them. Only through constant effort of everyone in the forest can the unwanted waste and the calamity wrought by fires be eliminated. You can help.

Here are four rules you should follow in helping rid the forest of this dreaded enemy. Please memorize them:

1. Crush out your cigarette, your cigar, your pipe ashes. Play safe; use the ashtray.
2. Break your match in two. When you can hold the burned end between your fingers it is safe.
3. If you must use fire: First, ask if the law requires a permit. Next, have help handy. Last, kill every spark! Drown your campfire; then stir and drown it again.
4. Put out unattended fires if you can. If you can't put them out, call the nearest forest officer, county sheriff, or State fire warden.



THE FOREST YIELDS
HEALTH — WEALTH — SECURITY

Prevent

Forest

Fires

It Pays

Report Forest Fires Promptly